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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Zaia, et al.
Appn No.: 09/881,828
Filed: June 15, 2001
Title: Medical Infusion and Aspiration System

Grp Art Unit: 3763
Examiner: Rodriguez, Cris Loiren

Box Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

37 CFR 1.312 AMENDMENT AFTER ALLOWANCE

Sir,

In response to the Examiner's Amendment/Comments attached to the Notice of Allowance dated November 29, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 13, Line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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In the preferred embodiment, the housing 14 consists of a cylindrical tube that is sealed at the upper end, as shown in FIG. 3. The housing 14 is preferably made of plastic, however, any suitable commercially available material may be used. The bottom 38 of the housing is preferably open and the inner surface 42 of the housing is threaded. Any standard or metric thread size may be used. A plunger 16 is preferably connected to the sealed end 50 and is suspended in alignment with the central axis 36 of housing 14. The housing 14 is sized to threadedly receive the cartridge 12. In the preferred embodiment, there is a plurality of openings 44 cut through the housing 14 parallel to the central axis 36 of housing 14. These openings 44 allow for normally trapped air to be exhausted as the plunger 16 either advances or retards. The plurality of openings 44 also creates an inspection window 46 within the housing 14. The inspection window 46 also allows access to the optical or electromagnetic strip within the encoded area 24. A lip 48 at the bottom 38 of the housing 14 provide for a manually removable